Natural Resources Conservation Service

Application Ranking Summary Forestry and Wildlife

Program:	Ranking Date:	Application Number:
Ranking Tool: Forestry and Wildlife		Applicant:
Final Ranking Score:		Address:
Planner:		Telephone:
Farm Location:		

National Priorities Addressed

Issue Questions	Responses
If the application is for development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP), the agency will assign significant ranking priority and conservation benefit by answering "Yes" to the following question. Answering "Yes" to question 1a will result in the application being awarded the maximum amount of points that can be earned for the national priority category.	
1. a. Is the program application to support the development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP)? If answer is "Yes", do not answer any other national level questions. If answer is "No", proceed with evaluation to address the remaining questions in this section.	Yes O or No O
Clean and Abundant Water: Water Quality - Will the proposed project assist the producer to:	
2. a. Meet regulatory requirements relating to animal feeding operations, or proactively avoid the need for regulatory measures?	Yes O or No O
2. b. Reduce sediment, nutrients or pesticides from agricultural operations located within a field that adjoins a designated "impaired water body" (TMDL, 303d, etc.)?	Yes O or No O
2. c. Reduce sediment, nutrients or pesticides from agricultural operations located within a field that adjoins a "non-impaired water body"?	Yes O or No O
Clean and Abundant Water: Water Conservation - Will the proposed project assist the producer implement conservation practices which:	
3. a. Decrease aquifer overdraft?	Yes O or No O
3. b. Conserve water from irrigation system improvements and saved water will be available for other beneficial uses?	Yes O or No O
3. c. Conserve water in an area where the applicant participates in a geographically established or watershed-wide project?	Yes O or No O
Clean Air: Treatment of air quality from agricultural sources - Will the proposed project assist the producer to implement practice(s) which:	
4. a. Meet on-farm regulatory requirements relating to air quality or proactively avoid the need for regulatory measures?	Yes O or No O
4. b. Reduce on-farm generated green house gases such as CO2 (Carbon Dioxide), CH4 (Methane), and N2O (Nitrous Oxide)?	Yes O or No O
4. c. Increase on-farm carbon sequestration?	Yes O or No O
Soil Health: Will the proposed project assist the producer to implement practice(s) which:	
5. a. Reduce erosion to tolerable limits (Soil "T")?	Yes O or No O
5. b. Improve soil tilth, organic matter, structure, health, etc.?	Yes O or No O
Healthy Plant and Animal Communities Wildlife Habitat Conservation - Will the proposed project assist the producer to implement practice(s) which:	
6. a. Benefit on-farm habitat associated with threatened and endangered, at-risk, candidate, or species of concern as identified in a State wildlife plan?	Yes O or No O
6. b. Help retain wildlife and plant habitat on land exiting the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)?	Yes O or No O
High Quality, Productive Soils, Healthy Plant and Animal Communities: Will the proposed project assist the producer implement practices which:	

7. a. Help manage or control noxious or invasive plant species on non-cropland?	Yes O or No O
7. b. Increase, or improve habitat to benefit pollinator or other targeted wildlife species?	Yes O or No O
7. c. Properly dispose of livestock carcasses?	Yes O or No O
7. d. Are identified in an Integrated Pest Management plan?	Yes O or No O
7. e. Are identified in a Nutrient Management plan?	Yes O or No O
7. f. Apply principles of adaptive nutrient management?	Yes O or No O
Energy Conservation - Will the proposed project assist the producer to implement practices which:	
8. a. Reduce energy consumption on the agricultural operation?	Yes O or No O
8. b. Increase on-farm energy efficiency with practices and improvements identified in an approved energy audit equivalent to criteria required in Ag EMP?	Yes O or No O
8. c. Assist in implementing energy conservation measures that also reduce greenhouse gas emissions and other air pollutants?	Yes O or No O
Business Lines - Conservation Implementation Additional Ranking Considerations - Will the proposed project result in:	
9. a. Implementation of all conservation practices scheduled in the contract on the CPA-1155 within three years of date of obligation?	Yes O or No O
9. b. Improvement of existing conservation practices or conservation systems already in place at the time the application is accepted?	Yes O or No O
9. c. Implementation of practice(s) which will complete an existing conservation system or suite of practices?	Yes O or No O

State Issues Addressed

Issue Questions	Responses
If the application is for development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP), the agency will assign significant ranking priority and conservation benefit by answering "Yes" to the following question. Answering "Yes" to question 1a will result in the application being awarded the maximum amount of points that can be earned for the state priority category.	
1. Is the program application to support the development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP)? If answer is "Yes", do not answer any other state level questions. If answer is "No", proceed with evaluation to address the remaining questions in this section.	Yes O or No O
Level of Improvement - ANSWER 'YES' TO QUESTION 2, 3, OR 4 BUT NOT MORE THAN ONE. IF THERE IS A LOW LEVEL OF IMPROVEMENT THEN ANSWER NO TO ALL.	
2. Significant Level of Improvement: Will the treatment(s) result in a significant improvement to the resource?	Yes O or No O
3. Moderate Level of Improvement: Will the treatment(s) result in a moderate improvement to the resource?	Yes O or No O
4. Minimum Level of Improvement: Will the treatment result in only the minimum level of improvements?	Yes O or No O
Number of Priority Habitats Addressed on the Tract (2 or more)	
5. Will the treatment(s) and project address habitat restoration or management for 2 or more priority species groups or habitats?	Yes O or No O
Site Suitability	
6. Is the site well suited for the proposed practice(s)?	Yes O or No O
Habitat Benefit	
7. Will the proposed land unit provide long term habitat benefits or is it targeted in statewide forest plans?	Yes O or No O
Existing Plan	
8. Is there a pre-existing conservation plan or forest management plan with a wildlife habitat objective that will add to the quality and or efficiency of the proposed project?	Yes O or No O
Rare Species	

9. Does the proposed project benefit rare species?	Yes O or No O
Prioritized Habitats and Forest lands	
10. Will the proposed project benefit prioritized habitats and forest lands in Vermont?	Yes O or No O

Local Issues Addressed

Issue Questions	Responses
If the application is for development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP), the agency will assign significant ranking priority and conservation benefit by answering "Yes" to the following question. Answering "Yes" to question 1a will result in the application being awarded the maximum amount of points that can be earned for the local priority category.	
1. Is the program application to support the development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP)? If answer is "Yes", do not answer any other local level questions. If answer is "No", proceed with evaluation to address the remaining questions in this section.	Yes O or No O
Franklin/Grand Isle LWG	
2. Does this application prevent or control invasive species?	Yes O or No O
3. Does this practice reduce or prevent sediment from entering into a waterway?	Yes O or No O
4. Does this application promote forest health and productivity by improving vertical forest structure?	Yes O or No O
5. Does this application help restore forest health by relocating poorly sited roads?	Yes O or No O
6. Does this application improve water quality through forest road repair?	Yes O or No O
Bennington LWG	
7. Are practices included in this application that would improve tree species diversity and/or vertical stratification for improved forest health and wildlife habitat?	Yes O or No O
8. Will this application include practices which will address invasive plants?	Yes O or No O
9. Will this application address soil erosion through the installation of stream crossing, forest trails and landings and or grade stabilization structure?	Yes O or No O
10. Will this application address habitat concerns for threatened and endangered species and/or species of special concern listed by Vermont's Wildlife Action Plan as Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) (S1, S2, and S3 only); and/or, will it address habitat connectivity?	Yes O or No O
11. Will this application provide for stream crossings for aquatic organism passage?	Yes O or No O
Ottauquechee LWG	
12. Will this application address a water quality or aquatic habitat resource concern in any surface water in the Connecticut River Watershed?	Yes O or No O
13. Will the application include critical area planting, stream crossing, and/or forest trails and landings in order to address soil erosion concerns?	Yes O or No O
14. Does this application address invasive species identified in the participant's forest management plan, and does the plan also include practices to promote native species regeneration?	Yes O or No O
15. Does this application include practices to improve songbird and other wildlife habitat in mature interior forests?	Yes O or No O
16. Does this application include practices for improved species diversity and improved vertical stratification within the forest and/or will it provide for decreased habitat fragmentation for wildlife?	Yes O or No O
Poultney Mettowee LWG	
17. Are practices included in this application that would improve tree species diversity and/or vertical stratification for improved forest health and wildlife habitat?	Yes O or No O
18. Will this application include practices which will address invasive plants?	Yes O or No O
19. Will this application address soil erosion through the installation of stream crossing, forest trails and landings and or grade stabilization structure?	Yes O or No O
20. Will this application address habitat concerns for threatened and endangered species and/or species of special concern listed by Vermont's Wildlife Action Plan as Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) (S1, S2, and S3 only); and/or, will it address habitat connectivity?	Yes O or No O
21. Will this application provide for stream crossings for aquatic organism passage?	Yes O or No O

Yes O or No O
Yes O or No O
Yes O or No O
Yes O or No O
Yes O or No O
Yes O or No O
Yes O or No O

Winooski LWG	
52. Will this application lead to improved forest health and diversity?	Yes O or No O
53. Does this project include the control or eradication of invasive species?	Yes O or No O
54. Will this application increase habitat continuity and/or is the project area within 1 mile of any core protected areas or conserved lands?	Yes O or No O
55. Does the project involve upgrades to or maintenance of forest trails, landings, and/or access roads?	Yes O or No O
56. Will this application maintain or make improvements to forest riparian buffers?	Yes O or No O
Otter Creek LWG	
57. Will this EQIP application address the enhancement of managed forest stand health and productivity or address the enhancement of early successional habitat for forest species?	Yes O or No O
58. Will this EQIP application manage invasive species?	Yes O or No O
59. Will this EQIP application improve water quality by addressing soil erosion from forest trails, access roads and landings?	Yes O or No O
60. Will this application maintain or make improvements to forest riparian buffers?	Yes O or No O
61. Will this EQIP application address, where needed, streambank erosion at stream crossings?	Yes O or No O
Lamoille LWG	
62. Does this application reduce or prevent sediment into surface water?	Yes O or No O
63. Does this application include practices that maintain habitat connectivity?	Yes O or No O
64. Does this application maintain roads and trails that follow Best Management Practices?	
65. Does this application include bird habitat that is shown on the Vermont Forest Birds Priority Map?	Yes O or No O
66. Does this application prevent or control invasive species?	Yes O or No O

Land Use:

Resource Concerns	Practices
Ranking Score	
Efficiency:	
Local Issues:	
State Issues:	
National Issues:	
Final Ranking Score:	

This ranking report is for your information. It does not in any way guarantee funding. When funding becomes available, you will be notified if your application is selected for funding. Some changes to the application may be required before a final contract is awarded.

Notes:

	Applicant Signature Not Required on this report for Contract Development unless required by State policy:
Signature Date:	Signature Date: